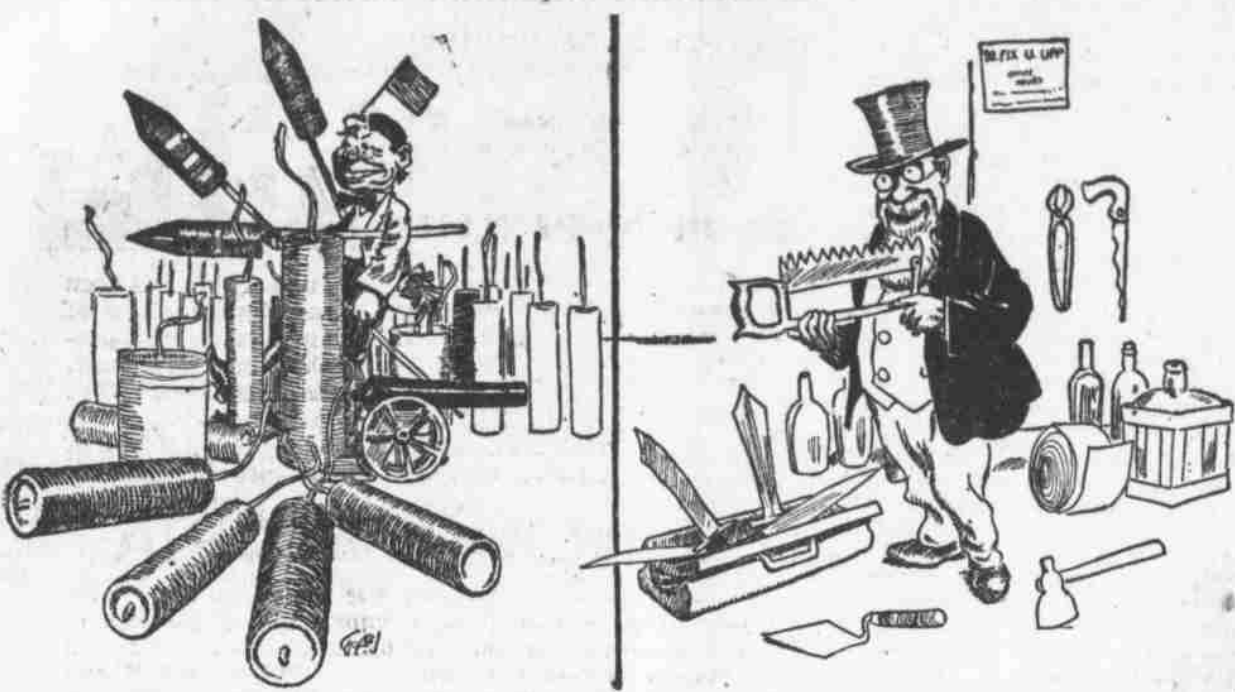


ALL READY



Mickey Finn's Big Fire Cracker

The explosion that wound up the Fourth of July celebration on Cooney Island.

Two mammoth firecrackers stood in the window of Casey's grocery. They were 12 inches long and proportionately thick.

For a month before the Fourth of July these gigantic indicators of enthusiasm had stood in the window like British soldiers on dress parade, while a predatory spider hung a filmy hammock between them and calmly killed his buzzing victims over two powder mines.

The firecrackers were the admiration and the envy of all the boys in Cooney Island. It was seldom that a youthful nose was not flattened against the window pane in ardent covetousness.

But the price demanded by Casey for the thunderers was prohibitive, so far as the boys were concerned, and there was not one of them patriotic or courageous enough to invest 25 cents in a single ecstatic explosion.

Said Mickey Finn timidly one evening when he had been sent by his mother to get a quarter of a pound of tea and half a pound of pork:

"Mr. Casey, I suppose now, that when you o' them big fellows wint off it would blow the stars out of the sky?" his mind filled with blissful thoughts of mighty explosions.

Casey stopped measuring out a half pint of New Orleans molasses, raised a monitor finger, and replied: "Mickey, my boy, I'd be afeard to tell you what would happen if I stood wint o' them big fellows out on the sidewalk and touched the stem wint the lighted end of a five-cent cigar. The noise would be terrible, terrible, my son. 'Twould make your head ring like an anvil, and you would see sparks like fireflies."

"Would it blow the house down?" asked the boy in an awed whisper.

"No, I don't think it would," said Casey. "It might shake the chimney down and break all the glass in the



In Ardent Covetousness.

windows in small pieces, and there would be paper in the streets as would fill an empty barrel o' flour. Oh, but them big fellows is mighty powerful, Mickey, mighty powerful. They

use them in China to kill murderers and robbers. They put wint o' them big firecrackers bechune the teeth of a murderer and make him light the fuse wint his own hand and blow his own head off. Thim Chinese is mighty crool, Mickey, mighty crool."

This vivid description inflamed Mickey's desire, which was Casey's motive in telling it, for the incident occurred on the eve of the Fourth, and Casey was afraid that the big firecrackers would be carried over the national holiday and remain a loss on his hands. In order to deepen the impression allowed him to handle one of the twins.

The boy's eyes had widened to their utmost capacity when he was outside the window, but now that he could feel the red jacket his hands trembled with the eagerness of possession and he would have given ten years of his life to own it.

"Take it along wint you, Mickey," said Casey, cajoling. "Thim crackers were made in Chow Chow, in China, for the Cooney Island trade, and I want to get rid of thim I have on hand before I send another order to Wan Lung, the haythim."

"But I have no money," said Mickey sorrowfully. "My father is goin' to give me three bunches of little firecrackers and a pinwheel, but I know he wouldn't buy wint o' thim big firecrackers for me."

"Well," continued Casey, "you come down here to-morrow mornin' and carry in a half ton of coal for me and I'll give you the big cracker."

The next morning Mickey was busy for two hours carrying chestnut coal in a nail keg and dumping it in Casey's cellar. Just after noon, with a smile covered with coal dust and a bosom full of chuckles, he received his prize.

No grass grew under his bare feet as he ran homeward, the precious powder mine clasped to his bosom. Holding the big firecracker aloft as he darted through the kitchen door, he exclaimed:

"Mother, I have it! Ain't it a beauty?"

"Well, I don't see anything about it to be makin' a fuss over," said Mrs. Finn, who, like most mothers, had no love for fireworks. "Now, don't be bringin' it nearer to me, as Mickey ran toward her. 'I don't want to be blown into the middle o' next week. Throw the dirty thing away! I'm afeared o' me life while you have it in your hands! Now, don't be goin' near the stove wint it! Arrah, ye little spalpeen, will ye take it off the stove? Take it off afore ye blow the roof off the house!' and the frightened woman ran into the bedroom and peered through the keyhole.

With the recklessness of boyhood, Mickey exclaimed, as he lit a match and reduced his mother to hysterics by pretending to light the firecracker stem:

"You needn't be afeared, mother. I'll nip it out afore it goes off."

In this simple fashion the afternoon of the Fourth passed away in the Finn household varied by the boy with occasional visits to the neighbors, whom he threw into a panic of fear by pretending to light the big explosive.

Mrs. Murphy and her three children were gathered around the kitchen table when Mickey placed the lighted mammoth in the middle of the table. Two of the boys went head first through the window, while Mrs. Murphy tried to crawl under the kitchen stove.

All this excitement afforded the boy a good deal of delight, but he reserved for the evening the culmination of his joy. He intended to blow his father up as he sat in his chair on the back stoop.

Mickey thought it would be an inspiring sight to witness his father flying across the back yard and plowing up the ground with his nose. In order that he might have an audience appropriate to so great an occasion, Mickey had spread the news among all the boys of the neighborhood, and at nine o'clock 50 boys sat on the fence surrounding the back yard. Mr. Finn, tired of the excitement of the

day, had fallen asleep in his rocking chair on the back stoop, when Mickey lit the stem of the big cracker and placed it carefully under his father's chair.

The moon shone brightly, illuminating the grin on every boy's face. Every ear was strained to catch the faint hissing of the fuse and every eye intent upon the sleeping man.

The fuse burned itself out, and the silence and suspense was deepening.



Had Fallen Asleep.

A minute passed and another, until Mickey could stand the strain no longer. He reached down and lifted the firecracker from beneath the chair. As he held it up in the moonlight to examine it, a mosquito lit upon his father's nose and the old gentleman awoke. Grabbing the firecracker from his son's hand he arose and holding it aloft, he said:

"Boys, there will be no explosion to-night. I'm sorry to disappoint you. I was afeared that Mickey might do some harm wint that big cracker, so when he wasn't lookin' this afternoon I took the powder out of it and filled it wint clay. So, you see that the show is over, and ye may as well go home and go to bed. There'll be no more explosions until I give Mickey wint a shingle afore I turn in. Good night to ye all. Come around some other night when there is somethin' doin'."

FOURTH OF JULY DON'TS.

Don't allow the children to lend over fireworks which will not "go off." They sometimes do it unexpectedly with unfortunate results to the little meddler.

Don't neglect to send for a physician at once in the case of a serious burn, to prevent a possible scar or worse still, blood poisoning, from ignorant or improper treatment of the wound.

Don't forget to have some remedies for burns at hand. When the skin is not broken by a burn scrape a raw potato, place on a piece of soft linen and use as a poultice. Bicarbonate of soda—the ordinary baking soda—is excellent for burns whether the skin is broken or not. If broken apply the dry soda, if unbroken dampen the soda with water to make a paste and apply to the spot. The pain will be instantly relieved.

Don't leave the windows of a town house open if it is to be left for the day. Stray rockets and sparks may find an entrance.

Good Advice.

Keep the wound open and send for the doctor.



AGAINST KING ALCOHOL.

How Physicians Are Acting as Temperance Reformers.

The North Carolina state board of medical examiners has recently decided to withdraw the license to practice medicine in that state of any physician whose addiction to alcohol or drugs has unfitted him to properly practice. The circuit court of Nebraska also, has lately sustained the state board of health in a like measure in its power to de-license physicians failing to properly perform their duty from this cause.

Dr. T. D. Crothers, superintendent of the Walnut Lodge hospital, Hartford, Conn., notes the above facts in his "Journal of Inebriety," and goes on to say:

"Every physician should be a temperance reformer in the broad sense, and a teacher and leader in the study of these problems in every community. Inebriety from alcohol and the sale of spirits as a beverage is a sanitary problem of enormous proportions, which the medical man of all others is trained to study."

"The medical man who would be indifferent to diphtheria, yellow fever or any other contagious disease, and assume an attitude of indifference to efforts to prevent these diseases, would merit the severest condemnation. There is no disease of evil whose entailment of physical suffering and mortality is so great, and so intimately related to the home of every community, as the alcohol problem. There is no physical condition so influential in the growth and life of civilization which a medical man is so well trained to understand and to prevent."

"The medical man of all others, should be a total abstainer, and a temperance man in the broadest meaning of this term, one whose personal life and conduct approximate and sustains his work and teaching. Of all men, physicians should be the leaders in temperance work, to understand the evils which follow from alcohol, and point out their destructive influence, and the means of prevention and cure."

Dr. Crothers further supplements his own views on the subject by similar statements of eminent European specialists, and in conclusion, expresses confidence that the final solution of the alcoholic problem will be achieved when the profession takes it up as a purely medical subject.

Increasing Responsibility.

President W. J. Tucker, of Dartmouth college, sums up the significance of foreign missions as follows: "Every advance made, instead of lessening the task, has introduced new needs, new values, new possibilities. Foreign missions means to-day the human soul under the nightly increased valuation of the century; foreign missions means to-day men and nations; foreign missions means to-day the unity of the races; foreign missions means to-day the order, the peace, the progress of the world in its wholeness; foreign missions means to-day the warrant for the promise of the kingdom of God on earth. Nobody will deny that foreign missions in our day means all this and more. When it means this or more to us, then we can say of our immediate part of the work, 'We can if we will.'"

Can't Use the Flag.

Liquor dealers in Nebraska took it into their heads that they would sell more beer by having the beer bottles decorated with the national colors, and they did it. Some Nebraska patriots took the matter into court, and, finally, after a strenuous battle, it was decided in the supreme court of the state that the liquor interests had no case, and the use of the Stars and Stripes for advertising purposes was illegal. The case was appealed to the supreme court of the United States, and the ruling of the Nebraska courts was sustained. "Old Glory" has been saved from sacrilege, and the flag of freedom will not be defiled by vulgar associations.

Vote "No Saloons."

Seven years ago, Long Beach, a popular ocean resort in southern California, voted out all saloons. It was then a village of 3,000. To-day it is a city of 18,000. When a recent tourists' palace hotel was erected, bar privileges were asked for. The people have just decided the point by voting "No," two to one, stating that under license their bank deposits were \$140,000, whereas to-day they are \$5,000,000, that the city's class of citizens and its prosperity are due to no saloons and tourists who must have liquor are not needed.—Ex.

Hard Times for Liquor Business.

Mida's Criterion, a wholesale liquor organ, states that the wholesale liquor dealers and jobbers throughout the country find that business has slackened up materially since the beginning of the year. The greatest contributory cause of the lull is, they believe, the apprehension regarding the imminent legislation now pending in nearly every state in the union.

Drink and Crime.

The recently issued statistics for Great Britain for 1905 show that for England and Wales the non-indictable offenses tried summarily were 729,727. Of these nearly one-third (219,276) were for drunkenness. Drunkenness also accounted for between a third and one-half of the whole number received into prison.

The Business It Hurts.

"It is one of the most ridiculous things in one's experience when some fellow shouts out that shutting up a whiskey shop on Sunday hurts business." It may hurt the saloon business. That's all.—Ohio State Journal.

Too Mean.

Many a man who comes home with a skate on is too mean to give his children a chance to sport on rollers.

HAPPENED AT BAD TIME.

Minister's Fall Significant in View of Previous Words.

In a small church in one of the mining towns of Pennsylvania was a pulpit both antique and unique. It was about the size and shape of a flour barrel, was elevated from the floor about four feet and was fastened to the wall. The ascent was by narrow winding steps.

A minister from a neighboring town, a man of great vigor and vehemence, preached there one Sunday. While preaching he bent forward and shouted out with great force the words of his text:

"The righteous shall stand, but the wicked shall fall."

Just as these words escaped from his lips, the pulpit broke from its fastenings, and he fell out and rolled over on the floor before his congregation. In an instant he was on his feet again and said:

"Brethren, I am not hurt, and I don't mind the fall much, but I do hate the connection."

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS.

How One Company's Assets Are Distributed in the South and West.

In connection with its withdrawal from Texas, along with many other companies, rather than to submit to the new law which requires that 75% of the reserves on Texas policies shall be invested in securities of that state, which securities shall be deposited in the state and subjected to heavy taxation, in addition to the large tax now imposed on life insurance premiums, the Equitable Life Assurance Society has made public the distribution of its assets, at the end of the second year of the new management. The Equitable now has \$10,958,000 invested in Texas, which is twice as much as the new law requires, but the management decided that to submit to the additional taxation would be an injustice to its policyholders in other states, which impose no such penalty on the assets of their citizens.

The Equitable's report shows that more than 75% of its total reserves are now invested in the southern and western states, while only 35% of its total insurance is carried in these states. Its investments are distributed as follows: Ala., \$3,099,000; Ark., \$974,000; Cal., \$4,038,000; Cal., \$5,142,000; Col., \$5,222,000; Fla., \$4,924,000; Ga., \$4,048,000; Idaho, \$5,197,000; Ill., \$12,617,000; Ind. Ter., \$443,000; Ind., \$6,836,000; Iowa, \$3,690,000; Kan., \$1,637,000; Ky., \$2,621,000; La., \$3,054,000; Md., \$2,207,000; Mich., \$6,099,000; Minn., \$2,065,000; Miss., \$767,000; Mo., \$8,197,000; Mont., \$1,890,000; Neb., \$7,526,000; Nev., \$640,000; New Mex., \$1,376,000; N. C., \$1,649,000; N. D., \$677,000; Ohio, \$11,634,000; Okla., \$1,006,000; Ore., \$1,158,000; S. C., \$975,000; S. D., \$1,305,000; Tenn., \$1,909,000; Utah, \$2,134,000; Va., \$6,582,000; Wash., \$1,202,000; W. Va., \$5,523,000; Wis., \$2,342,000; Wyo., \$3,367,000.

TOO YOUNG FOR A STICK.

Why Boy Would Have Nothing to Do with His Lemonade.

"It was at a children's treat in the country," said the Settlement worker with pink cheeks and unbounded enthusiasm, "and lemonade and edibles were being supplied to a collection of small children who looked, for the most part, like babies and were as sophisticated as I don't know what to say. As I walked around to see that everyone was getting enough to eat and drink I came to one infant whose mug of lemonade had not been touched apparently. I observed that there was a little twig from one of the trees floating on the top, but they are not fastidious as a rule and it did not occur to me that he objected to the proof that he was playing under real trees."

"Why don't you drink the lemonade, little brother?" said I. "Isn't it sweet and nice? Don't you like it?" He wriggled a bit and rubbed his ear on his shoulder in a delightful state of embarrassment, and then with a knowing twinkle he said: "I guess, teacher, I'm too little to drink lemonade wint a stick in it."—N. Y. Times.

Conclusive.

"Do you regard this prevalence of high prices as a sign of prosperity?" "Certainly," answered Mr. Dustin Stax; "the fact that people can afford to pay them is a conclusive sign of prosperity."—Washington Star.

A Success.

"Do you think airships will ever be a success?" "They're a success now. A Toledo man made \$50,000 out of them last year without taking the ship out of the tent."—Detroit Free Press.

COFFEE COMPLEXION.

Many Ladies Have Poor Complexions from Coffee.

"Coffee caused dark colored blotches on my face and body. I had been drinking it for a long while and these blotches gradually appeared, until finally they became permanent and were about as dark as coffee itself."

"I formerly had as fine a complexion as any could ask for."

"When I became convinced that coffee was the cause of my trouble, I changed and took to using Postum Food Coffee, and as I made it well, according to directions, I liked it very much, and have since that time used it in place of coffee."

"I am thankful to say I am not nervous any more, as I was when I was drinking coffee, and my complexion is now as fair and good as it was years ago. It is very plain that coffee caused the trouble."

Most bad complexions are caused by some disturbance of the stomach and coffee is the greatest disturber of digestion known. Almost any woman can have a fair complexion if she will leave off coffee and use Postum Food Coffee and nutritious, healthy food in proper quantity. Postum furnishes certain elements from the natural grains from the field that Nature uses to rebuild the nervous system and when that is in good condition, one can depend upon a good complexion as well as a good healthy body.

"There's a Reason." Read, "The Road to Wellville," in pigs.

STATE NEWS PICK-UPS

BARRICADED IN HIS ROOM.

For Sixty-Four Consecutive Weeks, the Manic Defied Capture.

Dayton, O.—For 64 consecutive weeks Robert Gebhart, aged 28 years, remained locked in his room at his home in Miami township and defied any person to disturb him. He was haled before the probate judge, declared insane and committed to the Dayton state hospital. His beard was breast long and his hair hung far down his back.

When deputies went to Gebhart's home they had to fight their way into his room, as he had locked the door and piled furniture against it. As they entered the maniac pounced upon them, but was overpowered after a desperate struggle.

When he entered his self-made prison Gebhart was clean shaven and youthful-looking. When overpowered he appeared to be the reincarnation of Rip Van Winkle.

"DRYS" WIN IN WELLSVILLE.

Twenty-Three Saloons Are Voted Out By Temperance Element.

Wellsville, O.—By a majority of 48 votes this place was voted "dry."

The "wets" polled 953 votes, while the "drys" mustered 1,001.

There are 23 saloons ousted, which with the 53 at East Liverpool puts 76 out of business within the next 30 days.

The city loses \$14,000 revenue, which will have to be made up by increased taxation. The anti-saloon people adopted the same tactics as was followed in East Liverpool.

The "drys" had a dozen extra policemen sworn in to prevent illegal voting. The Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad Co., a division of the Pennsylvania system, is reported to have aided the "dry" element.

SEVERAL TIMES.

Cars Had Hit Him, But This Time He Did Not Escape.

Columbus, O.—James Wetmore, one of the largest land owners and a pioneer in the county, was struck and killed by a car on the Columbus, Delaware & Marion railway, near Clintonville. He was 82 years of age and had defective hearing. On several occasions he had been struck by the cars and had been warned to keep away from the tracks on account of his deafness.

Dies in Electric Chair.

Columbus, O.—James W. Cornelius was electrocuted here for the murder of his wife in Canton last September. Cornelius was gay and apparently happy when he approached the chair. He left off singing "Nearer, My God, to Thee," with his spiritual advisers, to enter the death chamber. He actually hopped into the chair and called, "Hello, warden, are you happy?"

Professor Passes.

Wooster, O.—Prof. W. H. Wilson, 47, president of the Johnson chair of mathematics at Wooster university for seven years, died of pneumonia. The disease was contracted when he was attending commencement exercises two weeks ago. He was chairman of the athletic board and very popular with the students.

Fingers For Fish Hooks.

Akron, O.—Ralph Miller, a heliboy at the Barberton Inn, captured with his hands the largest fish ever caught in Summit county waters. The lad saw a large carp, floundering in the shallow water near the shore and, wading in, managed to land it after a brief struggle. It weighed nearly 30 pounds.

Inspectors Reappointed.

Columbus, O.—Chief Inspector of Mines George Harrison announced the reappointment of District Mine Inspector John L. McDonald, of Gloucester, as Inspector for the Second mining district. He also reappointed W. H. Miller, of Massillon, as Inspector for the Seventh mining district.

Mangled By a Dog.

Marion, O.—The 3-year-old daughter of Harry Zeig was attacked by a dog at the home of Lloyd Tilton, north of town. The child was bitten worst at the base of the brain. His face was terribly disfigured before the animal was beaten off.

Wife Finds Husband a Suicide.

Marietta, O.—John J. Pfeiffer, who ran a saloon and restaurant, committed suicide. He was found hanging to a rafter in the cellar by his wife. He got up at an early hour, and his wife supposed he had left the house.

Careless of Nellie.

Urbana, O.—Miss Nellie Burkner ran a hat pin through her finger when putting on her hat several days ago, and had to have the finger amputated. Blood poisoning is feared.

Jones Option Law Valid.

Columbus, O.—The supreme court of Ohio affirmed the superior court of Cincinnati, finding the Jones local option law valid. The Jones law provides for making of dry districts on petition of a majority of voters in a resident district.

Gives \$100,000 to Yale.

Cincinnati.—Mrs. W. W. Seely, widow of the late Dr. W. W. Seely, of this city, bequeaths to Yale university, of which institution her husband was a graduate, \$100,000 to be used as a general fund for the college.

Challenge to Firemen.

Chillicothe, O.—Hose wagon No. 2 of the local department made an exhibition run before the fire chiefs in this city, making a record of a half mile in one minute and ten seconds. The department challenges any team in the state.

He Had But Fifty Cents.

Youngstown, O.—Frederick R. Schenck, 38, of Buffalo, a patent medicine salesman, committed suicide at the Erie hotel by opening the arteries in his wrist. He had lost his position, and had but 50 cents in his pocket.

DENIED NEW TRIALS.

Two Men Under Death Sentence For Killing Their Sweethearts.

Columbus, O.—Two men who murdered their sweethearts and who were condemned to death for their crimes were refused new trials by the supreme court. They are Royal Fowler, of Dayton, and Albert Davis, of Springfield, now in the Ohio penitentiary awaiting the fatal shock at some midnight hour. Their attorneys filed petitions for leave to file petitions in error, alleging a variety of reasons. The court unanimously refused the desired leave. The cases will now go to the board of pardons. Gov. Harris announced his intention of sitting with this board when capital cases are considered so that the matter of passing upon the appeal for mercy will be greatly expedited.

"SKIDDOO" FROM AKRON.

If You Want to Get Married and Are Not of Age.

Akron, O.—Probate Judge Pardon believes that swearing falsely to one's age is perjury, and he says that hereafter it will not be so easy for couples not yet of legal age to secure marriage licenses in this county. A Columbus judge the other day was quoted as holding that false statements under such circumstances do not constitute perjury, but the local judge disagrees with him. He proposes to alter things so that Akron will not be such a mecca for children who desire to get married.

LIQUOR FOUND.

In Oxford Man's House and He Was Fined Two Hundred Dollars.

Oxford, O.—Frank Baker was arrested a few days ago for keeping whisky and beer upon his premises. A warrant was sworn out by the marshal and under the search and seizure law the house was searched and liquor and beer found and hauled to the mayor's office. Baker was fined \$200 and costs in the mayor's court. Attorney Burns filed a motion for a new trial. Oxford is a dry town.

Split in Ranks of New Sect.

Alliance, O.—A big split has occurred in the camp of the "Gift of Tongues" sect, because of a conflict of visions as to who is to be permanent leader of the colony. Rev. El Lupton announced he was directed by God to found here. Rev. C. E. McKinney, of Akron, and Rev. R. E. Bartman, of Los Angeles, Cal., also had visions, in each of which each was designated as the head of the new community.

Can Not Remove the Sheriff.

Columbus, O.—The governor of Ohio has not the power to remove any sheriff of the state from his office for dereliction of duty, according to Attorney General Ellis. Rev. H. C. Platt, of Marion, brought up a complaint to the governor asking him to remove the sheriff of that county from office because, as alleged, he refused to arrest Sunday baseball players.

Ohio Editors Meet.

Sandusky, O.—The new Canadian postal regulations and the matter of charges for rural delivery within the United States were discussed by the editors of the Associated Ohio Dailies when they assembled for the first session of their midsummer meet at Cedar Point. A committee was appointed by President Mack to draft resolutions.

Death Relieved Him.

Zanesville, O.—Leander Bell, 75, died at his home near Cumberland. About two months ago, while shooting groundhogs, his gun kicked his shoulder so severely that blood poisoning developed. A month ago his arm was amputated, but the disease had penetrated his entire system and death resulted.

Bullet in His Brain.

Toledo, O.—Taken to the Toledo hospital with a bullet in his brain on June 18, and by the surgeons who attended him expected to live but 48 hours, Joseph Shingler, according to the statements of attending physicians, will leave the institution, apparently recovered.

Bankers Meet.

Cincinnati.—The 17th annual convention of the Ohio Bankers' association was called to order by the president, Thomas H. Wilson, vice president of the First National, of Cleveland, in the convention